

portunity for all those who serve in our country's defense";

Whereas in the executive order the President declared that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin";

Whereas, soon after the President issued the executive order, United States forces in Korea were integrated, leading the way to a fully integrated army;

Whereas the Armed Forces have used the implementation and enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as additional tools to eliminate discrimination among their military and civilian personnel;

Whereas in 1998 minorities serve in senior leadership positions throughout the Armed Forces, as officers, as senior non-commissioned officers, and as civilian leaders;

Whereas the Armed Forces have demonstrated a continuing commitment to ensuring the equality of treatment and opportunity for all military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas the efforts of the Armed Forces to ensure the equality of treatment and opportunity for their personnel have contributed significantly to the advancement of equality of treatment and opportunity for all Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the Armed Forces for their efforts, leadership, and success in providing equality of treatment and opportunity for their military and civilian personnel without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin; and

(2) recognizes the Department of Defense's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the integration of the Armed Forces.

When said concurrent resolution was considered and read twice.

Mr. BUYER submitted the following amendment to the text which was agreed to:

Page 2, line 2, strike "That the Congress" and all that follows and insert the following:

That the Congress commends the Armed Forces for their efforts, leadership, and success in providing equality of treatment and opportunity for their military and civilian personnel without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.

Mr. BUYER submitted the following amendment to the preamble, which was agreed to:

Page, 1, in the second clause of the preamble insert "50 years ago" after "The President stated".

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

By unanimous consent, the title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution commending the Armed Forces for their efforts, leadership, and success in providing equality of treatment and opportunity for their military and civilian personnel without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin."

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby said concurrent resolution, as amended, was passed and the preamble and the title were amended was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

¶77.40 SUBMISSION OF CONFERENCE

REPORT—H.R. 1385

Mr. Bob SHAFFER of Colorado submitted a conference report (Rept. No. 105-659) on the bill (H.R. 1385) to consolidate, coordinate, and improve rehabilitation programs in the United States, and for other purposes; together with a statement thereon, for printing in the Record under the rule.

¶77.41 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT— D.C. BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LAHOOD, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Request Act.

This proposed Fiscal Year 1999 Budget represents the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. It also meets the financial stability and management improvement objectives of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997. For Fiscal Year 1999, the District estimates revenues of \$5.230 billion and total expenditures of \$5.189 billion resulting in a \$41 million budget surplus.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 28, 1998.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 105-294).

¶77.42 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT— DAYTON ACCORDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LAHOOD, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 7 of Public Law 105-174, I am providing this report to inform the Congress of ongoing efforts to meet the goals set forth therein.

With my certification to the Congress of March 3, 1998, I outlined ten conditions—or benchmarks—under which Dayton implementation can continue without the support of a major NATO-led military force. Section 7 of Public Law 105-174 urges that we seek concurrence among NATO allies on: (1) the benchmarks set forth with the March 3 certification; (2) estimated target dates for achieving those benchmarks; and (3) a process for NATO to review progress toward achieving those benchmarks. NATO has agreed to move ahead in all these areas.

First, NATO agreed to benchmarks parallel to ours on May 28 as part of its

approval of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) military plan (OPLAN 10407). Furthermore, the OPLAN requires SFOR to develop detailed criteria for each of these benchmarks, to be approved by the North Atlantic Council, which will provide a more specific basis to evaluate progress. SFOR will develop the benchmark criteria in coordination with appropriate international civilian agencies.

Second, with regard to timelines, the United States proposed that NATO military authorities provide an estimate of the time likely to be required for implementation of the military and civilian aspects of the Dayton Agreement based on the benchmark criteria. Allies agreed to this approach on June 10. As SACEUR General Wes Clark testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee June 4, the development and approval of the criteria and estimated target dates should take 2 to 3 months.

Third, with regard to a review process, NATO will continue the 6-month review process that began with the deployment of the Implementation Force (IFOR) in December 1995, incorporating the benchmarks and detailed criteria. The reviews will include an assessment of the security situation, an assessment of compliance by the parties with the Dayton Agreement, an assessment of progress against the benchmark criteria being developed by SFOR, recommendations on any changes in the level of support to civilian agencies, and recommendations on any other changes to the mission and tasks of the force.

While not required under Public Law 105-174, we have sought to further utilize this framework of benchmarks and criteria for Dayton implementation among civilian implementation agencies. The Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) adopted the same framework in its Luxembourg declaration of June 9, 1998. The declaration, which serves as the civilian implementation agenda for the next 6 months, now includes language that corresponds to the benchmarks in the March 3 certification to the Congress and in the SFOR OPLAN. In addition, the PIC Steering Board called on the High Representative to submit a report on the progress made in meeting these goals by mid-September, which will be considered in the NATO 6-month review process.

The benchmark framework, now approved by military and civilian implementers, is clearly a better approach than setting a fixed, arbitrary end date to the mission. This process will produce a clear picture of where intensive efforts will be required to achieve our goal: a self-sustaining peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina for which a major international military force will no longer be necessary. Experience demonstrates that arbitrary deadlines can prove impossible to meet and tend to encourage those who would wait us out or undermine our credibility. Realistic target dates, combined